

for birds must have water and cover. There was neither—only powdery dust.

The road passed through miles of once-fertile fields and pasture—now a vast nothingness—broken down fences half buried in dust, trees trying desperately to put forth a few leaves—that is if they still survived. We were stopped at the railroad crossing as a long train of cattle cars filled with bellowing, bawling, half-starved animals on their way to Omaha or Sioux City crawled past. They should have been in green pasture with new calves.

Along the road were farmhouses, once painted white with organdy curtains and potted plants in the window. Now they are like the landscape about them—gray and forlorn, and some abandoned. The man at the next filling station, once a farmer, muttered: "I just can't take it any more." Even hope for many had become a meaningless word.

The dust bowl was only one of nature's rebellions against man's misuse of her resources. For example, I remembered the little city of Vanport, Oreg., destroyed in minutes by a flood on the mighty Columbia River, made mightier by uncontrolled water runoff from melting snow on the watersheds. Then there was a lovely little lake back from the coast a mile or so—where Don actually caught fish. A clear-cut logging outfit had raped the bordering mountains, leaving the slashings. Fire followed, and then flood silt drained into the lake, and it no longer had an abundance of fish. And who can forget the Tillamook Burn in the Cascade Mountains in Oregon. Thousands of Douglas-fir trees lay waste—a scene as desolate as the dust bowl itself. And how about the strip-mining spoils and debris in the Appalachian Mountain country at the other end of our great country?

These are all dreary pictures we would like to forget, as we would like to forget the week of October 19, 1962, with its possibility of laying waste our Nation. But we dare not forget! It often takes disaster or near catastrophe to start a movement for a better way of life. So it was that out of disaster the Nation's modern soil and water conservation program as we know it today was born 30 years ago.

Men everywhere joined in the movement and with them, as the coworkers, the moral support, the "power behind the throne," the "no dollar a year gal"—the women. I have yet to meet a wife of a conservationist or of a conservation farmer or rancher who was not a conservationist in her own right. She may not build stockpounds, terrace the hills, or make contour furrows; but I'm sure she's approved his conservation program, pushed it, preached it, and cut the budget so it could be done.

There is no greater pleasure than to go with Don to conservation meetings. It doesn't matter which State you go to, the women in conservation are all alike. They all are dedicated and are doing their part in conservation.

We have a Ladies Auxiliary of the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. It is an effective education arm of the association; and there are growing numbers of State association auxiliaries, and even some local district auxiliaries. You will find the conservation women also have left their mark on the public school course of study, on garden clubs, General Federation of Women's Clubs, League of Women Voters, 4-H clubs, Girl Scouts, and Camp Fire Girls. You name it and, if by chance they missed, well, just give them time.

I knew a little Camp Fire Girl several years ago who could classify land like an expert. And I've heard more than one teenager proudly express the wish in typical teenage fashion that just once they'd like something dished out, other than conservation, at the evening meal. So you see this conservation movement is not for men only, but a family affair.

## Standardization of Firehose Coupling Threads

### EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. BOB WILSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 31, 1963

Mr. BOB WILSON. Mr. Speaker, the International Association of Fire Chiefs Committee on the Standardization of Firehose Coupling Threads has made numerous appeals to higher authority to standardize firehose coupling threads and thus avoid undue disaster. Therefore, I have reintroduced my concurrent resolution calling for the President to appoint a commission to study the feasibility of requiring by the enactment of Federal legislation the standardization of threads on the couplings on fire hoses used by fire departments.

Under unanimous consent to extend my remarks in the RECORD, I wish to include both an address to the International Association of Fire Chiefs Committee on Standardization of Firehose Coupling Threads by Robert Ely, chairman, and a highly applicable and illustrative poem entitled "Tragedy."

#### REPORT OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS' COMMITTEE ON STANDARDIZATION OF FIREHOUSE COUPLING THREADS

First I want to thank our committee members, Chief John Garthe, and Chief Nicholas R. Warner for their help in making our progress possible. We also want to thank Chief Ray W. Shukraft and Chief Rol B. Woolley for their invaluable assistance. The help and guidance received from your executive director, B. Richter Townsend, and your public relations director, Al Drayton, has been a great help. The support of your president, Chief Edward F. Deignan, and the entire membership has been greatly appreciated.

Your committee has continued to urge the use of national standard firehose threads and standard gasket grooves on all couplings and fittings used for fire protective purposes. It has been a pleasure working for you and we appreciate your continued support on this worthwhile project.

From history we find that standardization of firehose coupling threads was the main topic of the first convention of the International Association of Fire Engineers in 1873. Concern in 1873 was caused by confusion due to misfits of hose coupling threads experienced in the great Boston fire of 1872. Ninety years later we are still trying to get all sizes of firehose coupling screw threads converted to the recommended national standard dimensions.

According to the New York Times, non-standard firehose coupling threads were a contributing factor in the disastrous fire aboard the aircraft carrier *Constellation* on December 19, 1960. Forty-nine workmen lost their lives and there was a property loss of \$47,942,000. A lot of threads could be standardized for that price. Refer to the New York Times of December 28, 29, and 31, and January 4, 1961.

We are happy to report that the U.S. Forest Service has converted their 1½-inch firehose coupling in southern California to the national standard thread and they are now in the process of converting their equipment in northern California.

Yes, progress has been made, but as long as any firehose coupling threads are in use

that don't comply to the national standard dimensions there is still work to be done.

We suggest that each divisional organization of the International Association of Fire Chiefs appoint a committee to assist in the standardization of firehose coupling threads in its particular district. Our international committee will assist in any way possible. We have had experience in the standardization program which should be a help. Methods have been developed to rethread existing equipment at considerable savings. We are also open for suggestions and will welcome any assistance to help get the job done.

In last year's report we enclosed a copy of our letter to the President of the United States informing him of the use of so many nonstandard firehose coupling threads and asked that he take the necessary steps to aid and assist the fire service in standardizing all firehose coupling threads nationwide. Our letter was answered by Mr. Barent F. Landstreet, Deputy Assistant Director for Emergency Community Services, Department of Defense, and as yet there has been no help from the President or Office of Civil Defense to help get firehose coupling threads standardized.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs 1959 Resolution 5 asking OCDM for matching funds to help defray the costs of the equipment necessary to accomplish the standardization has apparently been ignored. We urge OCDM to reconsider the resolution and assist the fire service in the standardization program.

On September 27, 1961, Congressman Bob Wilson, of California, had our letter to the President of the United States, with the supporting material on firehose coupling threads read in the House of Representatives and inserted in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. You may find it in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD Appendix on pages A8028 and A8029 of the October 10, 1961, issue.

The fire service is on record asking that all coupling threads be standardized and has notified the responsible people of our country of the dangerous condition that exists with the use of so many nonstandard firehose coupling threads. The fire service cannot be held responsible for loss of life and property by fire where nonstandard firehose coupling threads are a contributing factor if the fire chief has gone on record in writing to his superiors asking that their nonstandard firehose coupling threads be converted to the recommended national standard firehose coupling screw thread dimensions as soon as possible. Have we protected ourselves in writing?

The NFPA, NBFU, and IAFC have adopted standards for the coupling screw threads for all 10 sizes of firehose used for fire protective purposes. The American Standards Association has adopted seven of these standards. However, the 4-, 5-, and 6-inch sizes which were the last to be adopted by the NFPA, NBFU, and IAFC have not been adopted by the American Standards Association as yet. It is desirable to have these standards adopted by the ASA as it will make the NFPA, NBFU, and IAFC coupling thread standards more secure and will help to get wider adoption of the standards. There has been a committee appointed by the ASA to study the firehose coupling threads.

Having worked with the development of the 4-, 5-, and 6-inch standards and through the recommendation of your executive director I have been appointed to represent the IAFC on the ASA coupling thread committee. A meeting of the ASA coupling thread committee will be held soon.

Funds should be appropriated for traveling expenses so that I can attend the meeting and help to get your IAFC 4-, 5-, and 6-inch thread standards adopted as the American standard.

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On the same day the U.S. State Department announces that an informal, private meeting of American Foreign Ministers will take place in Washington on October 2 to review the Soviet military buildup in Cuba and possible steps for dealing with the whole Cuban problem.

September 20, 1962: U.S. Senate adopts by 86 to 1 a resolution stating that the United States is determined to prevent by whatever means may be necessary, including the use of arms, the Marxist-Leninist regime in Cuba from extending by force or threat of force its aggressive or subversive activities to any part of this hemisphere; to prevent in Cuba the creation or use of an externally supported military capability endangering the security of the United States.

On the same day, the U.S. House approves the foreign-aid appropriation bill, including three amendments intended to cut off aid to any country permitting the use of its merchant ships to transport arms or goods of any kind to Cuba.

The House approved the foreign aid appropriation bill without restoring any of the \$1,124 million urged by President Kennedy. By a 249-to-144 vote, the measure was sent to the Senate after the Democratic leadership decided not to risk deeper cuts in a floor fight. In earlier voice votes, the House shouted its approval of three amendments to cut off aid to any country that permits its ships to transport goods to Cuba (New York Times, Sept. 20, 1962).

A resolution endorsing the use of arms, if necessary, to prevent Cuban aggression or subversion in the Western Hemisphere was adopted by the Senate, 86 to 1, after 3 hours of debate (New York Times, Sept. 20, 1962).

September 21, 1962: The Soviet Union issued a new warning that any U.S. attack on Cuba would precipitate a nuclear war. The threat was made by Foreign Minister Gromyko in a tough and uncompromising policy statement to the United Nations General Assembly. Adlai E. Stevenson replied that the threat to peace came from the Soviet Union, which is "stuffing Cuba" with planes, rockets, and other arms.

September 24, 1962: Secretary of State Rusk met yesterday with the Norwegian Foreign Minister, Halvard M. Lange, in an effort to win cooperation in blocking shipments of strategic goods to Cuba. They conferred in New York where Mr. Rusk has been making similar appeals to other allied diplomats. Italy and West Germany were said to be responding more favorably than Britain and Scandinavia.

September 25, 1962: Russian trawlers will operate out of Cuba under a plan disclosed by Premier Castro in a television speech. He said the two nations would build a port somewhere on Cuba's coast for a joint Atlantic fishing fleet.

September 26, 1962: The House of Representatives completed congressional action on a declaration of the U.S. determination to oppose with force, if necessary, Communist aggression or subversion based in Cuba. The House approved the joint resolution as anger and concern mounted in Washington over Moscow's plans to help build a port in Cuba for Soviet fishing trawlers. Moscow portrayed the project as a routine agreement for aid to the Castro regime.

Ways to guard against Cuban-based aggression and subversion were discussed in New York by Secretary of State Rusk and foreign ministers of the Latin-American nations. One proposal is the establishment of a Caribbean military organization.

September 29, 1962: Cuba stands in greater danger of attack, Premier Fidel Castro asserts, because U.S. politicians facing November elections are "trying to push the country toward aggression."

In a television address last night, Premier Castro said that in the U.S. House of Repre-

sentatives and Senate "there is a competition to see who can shout most. It doesn't matter to them that they play with the destiny of the world and play with war."

He said armed intervention in Cuba could lead to World War III.

"We know the Soviet forces are with us," Dr. Castro declared. "If the imperialists think the Soviet Government's words are merely words, they are wrong."

September 30, 1962: At a White House luncheon, the President and Britain's Foreign Secretary discussed ways to contain further Communist expansion and subversion in the Caribbean. A joint communique suggested that Britain might have changed her policy of regarding the Cuban problem as a matter of concern only to Washington.

October 1, 1962: OAS meets today to discuss Cuban crisis.

October 2, 1962: Behind closed doors at the State Department, Secretary of State Rusk assured Latin America's foreign ministers that the United States was prepared to give the necessary leadership to efforts to defeat Communist inroads in this hemisphere.

October 4, 1962: A U.S. program to penalize all shipowners who transport Soviet-bloc supplies to Cuba will be even tougher than expected. The four-point program, to be started within 2 weeks, will threaten foreign shipowners with the loss of all U.S. Government-owned or financed cargo if even one of their vessels engages in such trade.

October 8, 1962: Amid the applause of some delegates and the cries of hecklers, Cuban President Dorticos urged the United Nations yesterday to condemn the American "naval blockade" of his country. Gripping the rostrum, the bespectacled President had to shout his speech to the General Assembly. He was interrupted 4 times by hostile demonstrators in the visitors' gallery and about 12 times by applause, mainly from the Soviet bloc.

Havana sources predicted that the release of 1,113 captives held since last year's abortive invasion would be announced soon after final talks today between Premier Castro and James B. Donovan. In a move against Cuban trade, leaders of the International Longshoremen's Association planned to ask their men not to load cargoes to or from the Soviet Union and to boycott all lines servicing Cuba.

October 9, 1962: On Cuba, Secretary of State Rusk vowed U.S. aid for Cuban development if Communist rule is ended there, but he said the big issue now was Communist use of Cuba as a military and subversive base. Meanwhile, Washington said the release of anti-Castro Cubans seized in last year's invasion attempt still was not set. In Havana, however, James B. Donovan, who is negotiating for the prisoners' release, was optimistic about an early agreement.

October 10, 1962: A Cuban exile group—Alpha 66—announced that its members made a successful raid Monday on the Cuban port city of Isabela de Sagua. The exiles said that a commando group of 15 to 25 men had killed about 20 defenders, including Russians.

October 12, 1962: Britain has discussed with the United States a threat by a Cuban exile group, Alpha 66, to attack all merchant ships carrying supplies to Cuba. A carefully worded statement by a Foreign Office spokesman avoided saying that any complaint had been made. Washington indicated it was not yet ready to act against the exiles.

October 14, 1962: Responding to a radio message, the Coast Guard picked up two wounded crew members of a Cuban patrol boat and flew them to a Miami hospital. The Cubans were shot when their craft was sunk by a raiding vessel manned by exiles off the Cuban coast.

## Women Play a Good Part in Soil Conservation

### EXTENSION OF REMARKS

OF

HON. BEN F. JENSEN

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 31, 1963

Mr. JENSEN. Mr. Speaker, my quarter century of service in this House has gained for me, so I am told, a reputation of being rather tight-fisted with the people's money. I own up to the charge.

However, one place where I am quite generously disposed to spend tax dollars is in the field of soil conservation. I am even willing to support amounts in excess of budget figures for this important work.

No undedicated person is ever likely to rise to become head of the Soil Conservation Service, so there is not going to be any chance to compare good and bad administrators or administrations in this vital field. The country started out in 1937 with the daddy of soil conservation, the late great Hugh Hammond Bennett, heading the service. And now for several years we have had another director with conservation in his blood, Don A. Williams.

As a matter of fact, the country gets twice as much for its money in having Don at the head of the Soil Conservation Service, because with him we get the fine supporting cooperation of Mrs. Williams, the experienced Ruth, who is a true champion of conservation practices throughout this blessed land.

Mr. Speaker, I desire to insert at this point in the RECORD an article entitled "Women in Conservation Are All Alike—They All Are Doing Their Part," by Ruth Williams, from the January 1963 issue of Soil Conservation:

WOMEN IN CONSERVATION ARE ALL ALIKE—  
THEY ALL ARE DOING THEIR PART

(EDITOR'S NOTE.—This "women in conservation" issue of Soil Conservation would not be complete without this personal observation by the wife of SCS Administrator Donald A. Williams, one of the many wives who have been through the soil and water conservation ranks with their husbands. A South Dakota farm girl, she has since 1935 shared with him, and with the wives of the farmers and ranchers with whom he worked, the fight against soil erosion and water waste—lived and "preached" conservation from coast to coast.)

(By Ruth Williams)

It was the spring of 1932 and I was on my way from Aberdeen to Clark, S. Dak., to see my prospective husband. It was spring and like James Russell Lowell's poem:

"Now is the high tide of the year  
And whatever of life hath ebbed away  
Comes flooding back with a ripply cheer  
Into every bare inlet and creek and bay  
And no matter how barren the past may  
have been  
'Tis enough for us now that the leaves are  
green."

But the poem we memorized back in the fifth grade just didn't make sense this spring morning. Another "black blizzard" had just roamed through the Plains States and had again left it a sea of desolation. There were no songs of the birds to herald the morning.